

## Who are The Mighty Creatives?

The Mighty Creatives are a charity with a mission for every child and young person to have access to great arts, culture and education.

Our vision is of a world where all CYP will harness the power of arts, creativity and culture in order to transform themselves, their communities and their futures.

We want every child and young person (0-30 years old), particularly those who are the most disadvantaged and excluded to have access to arts and cultural opportunities in order to contribute to the fight against child poverty.

Formerly known as our Sector Support Commissions, The Mighty Creatives has an open call to cultural organisations and individuals to apply for the second round of the newly named Creative Communities Fund. We have 7 grants of up to £7,500 available.

## Background to the Fund

In 2020, in response to Covid-19, The Mighty Creatives (TMC) launched the first round of our Sector Support Commissions, now known as the Creative Communities Fund.

In the midst of the period of uncertainty of what Coronavirus would mean for the creative sector and our regions' young people, TMC stepped up to the challenge by repurposing some of our planned investment through The Cultural Life Fund to support the arts, cultural and education sectors at the height of the pandemic.

The first round saw 8 commissions of grants ranging between £3,000 - £5,000 awarded to cultural organisations and individuals to produce projects that supported vulnerable children and young people by delivering creative responses to the challenge posed by Covid-19.

In this second round, we are looking to continue to support projects that respond to the identified needs of children and young people that have arisen throughout the pandemic. We are also keen to see how the idea of creative communities is incorporated into project ideas and how this can benefit our region's young people.

## Creative Communities Fund

### Objectives

The Creative Communities Fund will:

- Support individual creative and cultural business leaders aged 21-30, Individuals aged 30+, or Small and Medium sector organisations across the East Midlands.

- Design activity aimed at supporting vulnerable children and young people. For example children and young people:
  - with special education needs or disabilities (SEND)
  - with additional mental health or emotional wellbeing needs
  - who are looked after or in the care system
  - in youth justice settings
  - aged 0-5, early years
  - with English as an additional language

If you are not already working with a group of young people in any of the above settings, you should be able to show how you are working with children and young people with the highest level of needs in your community.

- Ensure our most vulnerable children and young people do not get left behind.
- Prioritise areas in the East Midlands that Arts Council England have labelled as 'Priority Places' in their recent Delivery Plan. These places are:
  - Ashfield
  - Bolsover
  - Boston
  - Chesterfield
  - East Lindsey
  - NE Derbyshire
  - Mansfield

We particularly encourage applications from cultural organisations and individuals in these areas. We are still open to supporting projects that sit outside of this list if a strong case of need is evidenced within your application.

- Raise the profile of Local Cultural Education Partnerships.
- Create a cohort of grant recipients that share ideas, progress and learning throughout the process.

## Specification

**TMC are offering up to 7 commissions for creative and cultural business leaders aged 21+, or small to medium cultural sector organisations to undertake and deliver creative responses to the current needs of our region's young people.**

We are looking for projects that can be flexibly delivered during this period of re-building, reintegration, and re-imagination. What does the 'new normal' look like for children and young people and our creative communities?

Your project will need to be responsive to a changing climate and could be delivered in several different ways, taking a hybrid approach – with both physical and digital delivery. We encourage you to think about how projects can be delivered online using digital platforms and technology in the event of a future lockdown, but we encourage responses that also recognise and can address a digital poverty gap for some children and young people.

We are looking for projects that take as their inspiration how children and young people are adapting to the 'new normal'. We are interested in projects that respond to the identified needs of children and young people during the Covid-19 emergency. We know that children and young people have faced enormous challenges and disruptions in their school life. We know that home life may have been difficult for some children and young people during lockdown. We recognise challenges to the attainment, achievement, social and wellbeing aspects of children and young people's lives. And we know these may just be some of the ways in which children and young people have been affected.

Your proposal must respond to the needs which children and young people are currently facing in your community. Consider how your activity will make a difference to children and young people's lives and what this work will change, challenge or ask?

You may wish to consider exploring some of the following themes (please note that these are just suggestions and alternatives would be welcomed):

- How children and young people's creativity has been affected during this time and the impact this continues to have.
- How children and young people are being inspired, when some people may still feel nervous to visit many inspirational sources, venues and organisations.
- How children and young people can continue to explore culture, connect with a wider world and develop critical attributes.
- What does fun look like now?
- What does self-expression look like now?
- How children and young people's skills and abilities are nurtured and developed during this time.
- What is the role for artists, creatives and cultural organisations (SMEs) in supporting children and young people's creativity in this time?
- How do artists, creatives and cultural organisations (SMEs) adapt their offers to meet the needs of young people.

We anticipate the role of artist/ SME to develop a programme of activity that responds to some or all of the above. The artist/ SME will have overall responsibility for delivery of the project and will be required to provide a short delivery plan of activities.

We also encourage you to engage with your Local Cultural Education Partnership where they operate in your area in order to help deliver a more joined up offer for young people. See details of local cultural education partnerships in Appendix 1.

## Outputs

- Projects should deliver an output that brings together the creative responses of children and young people and artist/ creative/ creative organisation.

- We anticipate that outputs may need to be digital or other formats that comply with social distancing and any public health measures in place at the time of completion. However, we encourage you to think about how your outputs could also be shared in a 'normal' way should things stay open as they currently are at the time of writing – e.g. gallery exhibition, theatrical or music performance.

### **Outcomes**

- Through this commission we will deliver the following outcomes:
  - A cohort of artists, creatives and SME's that understand the challenges to young people's creativity during the ongoing Covid-19 emergency
  - A sector that is skilled in digital technologies and platforms
  - A sector that provides life opportunities for those children and young people most in need
  - A sector which has developed new skills, supporting the sectors' sustainability
  - A sector that comes together to share learning, challenges and progress

### **Fee and timescale**

Commissions can apply for up to £7,500.

Commissions will need to define their timescale in their application using a timeframe of February 2022 – December 2022 for planning, delivery and celebration of the children and young people's work.

### **Eligibility Criteria**

To apply for the Creative Communities Fund you must be a creative and cultural business leader aged 21+ or a small to medium cultural sector organisation. You can be:

- a business that operates in the creative and cultural sector
- a start-up business
- a sole trader, partnership or SME
- Have up to date safeguarding policies & practices that cover on and offline work

You will be responsible for your own tax and national insurance requirements.

You must be aware of appropriate safeguarding training, on and offline and agree by TMC's Safeguarding Policy.

You must provide:

- a clear budget for the activity
- a timetable for delivery

- a clear plan of how you will deliver the activity, including how you might share work
- an evaluation plan outlining how you will monitor the impact of the work undertaken
- Evidence that you are already working with groups of children & young people who may be most in need

You must also be available for the following meetings:

- **w/c 24<sup>th</sup> January 2022 or w/c 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022** for an initial 1-2-1 meeting with TMC to go through your application and timelines
- **Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2022** for a 1<sup>st</sup> group meeting, with the whole cohort presenting projects to each other
- **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2022** for a 2<sup>nd</sup> group meeting, with the whole cohort presenting progress to each other
- **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2022** for a 3<sup>rd</sup> and final group meeting, with the whole cohort sharing case studies and evaluation with each other

You will be asked before sending your application to confirm that you will be available for meetings on these days. Without doing so, we are unable to accept an application. Group meetings will take place in the afternoon with times to be confirmed closer to the time.

### Arts Award

We encourage you to consider how you may deliver Arts Award within your activity. <https://www.artsaward.org.uk/site/?id=64>

### Monitoring and Evaluation

Successful commissions will be required to provide data for monitoring and evaluation at various points in the activity. You will also be required to write up a case study for publication.

You will also be required to attend group meetings to present and share ideas, progress and learning as outlined above, as well as an initial 1-2-1 meeting at the very beginning of the process.

### The Process

We will implement the following process for **Creative Communities Fund**:

Stage	Activity	Notes	Date
Stage 1	Grants launched		w/c 1st Nov 2021
Stage 2	Applications	Email <a href="mailto:hannaa@themightycreatives.com">hannaa@themightycreatives.com</a> with any questions.	1 <sup>st</sup> Nov – 30 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2021

Stage 3	Application deadline		30 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2021 at 12 noon
Stage 4	Panel	Depending on volume of applications. TMC will assess the applications and make recommendations for funding.	w/c 13 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2021  Applicants informed by 23 <sup>rd</sup> Dec 2021
Stage 5	The delivery	Applicants are to detail their timeframe within an 11 month period.	Completed by 7 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2022
Stage 6	Monitoring	Applicants are to attend monitoring meetings throughout the process – of which group meetings have been agreed in advance.	w/c 24 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2022 or w/c 31 <sup>st</sup> Jan 2022 for 1-2-1 meeting  9 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2022 for 1 <sup>st</sup> group meeting  13 <sup>th</sup> Jul 2022 for 2 <sup>nd</sup> group meeting  7 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2022 for 3 <sup>rd</sup> and final group meeting

### What to do next?

Make sure that you have read all the supporting documents available online. If you would like to discuss the application process and the fund, please book a time for a telephone call with Hannaa Hamdache, Creative Communities Manager. Email: [hannaa@themightycreatives.com](mailto:hannaa@themightycreatives.com).

Please complete an online application form on The Mighty Creatives' website.

If you are finding it difficult to apply via our application form online, please get in contact via the email above for alternative ways of applying.

Deadline for applications is Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> November at 12 noon.

As part of our commitment to equal opportunities and diversity of our workforce, we would also request that you complete and return our Equal Opportunities Form.

We look forward to receiving your application.

## Appendix 1

### Local Cultural Education Partnerships

The Mighty Creatives work with a range of cultural organisations and schools to develop Local Cultural Education Partnerships (LCEPs). LCEPs are a response to the Cultural Education Challenge. The Cultural Education Challenge asks arts & cultural organisations, educational institutions and local authorities to come together to drive a joined-up cultural offer locally, to share resources and bring about a more coherent and visible delivery of cultural education through LCEPs.

Find out more about the LCEPs in the East Midlands:

[Black Shale](#) - the LCEP for Amber Valley and Bolsover

[Captivate](#) - the LCEP for Ashfield and Mansfield

Chesterfield CEP - the LCEP for Chesterfield (contact TMC for details)

Cultural Campus ([DCEP](#)) - the LCEP for Derby City

[The City Classroom](#) - the LCEP for Leicester(Shire)

[ChalleNGe](#) - the LCEP for Nottingham

[UNLOCK](#) - the LCEP for Northamptonshire

Lincolnshire CEP – the LCEP for Lincolnshire (contact TMC for details)